

I am opposed to the elimination of the morse code requirement for an Amateur Radio License at the General and Amateur Extra Class levels. As a volunteer examiner, I have noticed that the majority of people examined have memorized the question pool, but have no idea what the questions and answers mean. They have simply learned that if they get a certain question, then they select the appropriate answer (even though they understand neither the question nor the correct answer). Also, I believe that with the ability to pass the 5 Words Per Minute CW test either by 25 straight character copy (one minute of solid copy) or by the 10 "fill-in-the-blank" questions that applicants have established a fairly good record of passing the CW test. I also believe that a basic understanding of CW operations is important for emergency communications. I am also opposed to further allocating more HF frequencies and types of emissions in the HF spectrum for Technician Class licensees. The Technician Class license is intended to be an entry level license to amateur radio operations and, therefore, an encouragement to Technician Class licensees to gain more knowledge of the art and practice of amateur radio in order to obtain higher class licenses and privileges. I oppose this petition on the grounds of consolidation of license classes (and therefore privileges) and that Technicians already have CW privileges on 10 meters and 50 MHz and above. The FCC should retain the 5 WPM Code requirement and license classes in their present form. I am opposed to raising the morse code requirement for any class of license above the present 5WPM. However, I am not opposed to the part of the petition that would give Technicians and Technician Plus the same CW operation privileges on HF with no phone privileges. I agree that the technical levels of the examination questions on both the General and Amateur Extra Class examinations should be increased.

Dr. John F. Teer

Amateur Radio Operator AK5Z

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